

For immediate release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

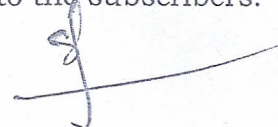
TRAI issues a Pre-consultation paper on Infrastructure sharing in broadcasting TV distribution sector.

New Delhi, 23rd May 2016:- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a Pre-consultation paper on infrastructure sharing in broadcasting TV distribution sector.

2. The satellite TV channels are mostly delivered in the country through Cable TV, Direct to Home (DTH) and Head-End in the Sky (HITS) networks. As on 31st March 2016, a total of 869 satellite TV channels are permitted for down-linking in the country. On distribution side, there are approximately 700 Multi-System Operators (MSOs) in DAS notified areas, more than 60,000 Cable operators, 7 DTH operators and 2 HITS operators.

3. Each Distribution Platform Operator (DPO) re-transmits large number of satellite TV channels. Most of these TV channels are common across the DPOs. Therefore, there is a scope for better utilization of available infrastructure and reduction in the cost of operations, if the infrastructure is shared among the DPOs. There is a need to examine technical and commercial issues in sharing of infrastructure such as satellite transponders, earth station facilities, Head-end facilities and optical fiber networks being used by the DPOs. This may result in optimum utilization of the infrastructure and reduction in Capital Expenditure & Operating Expenditure of operators which may ultimately benefit the subscribers.

4. The network and services can also be decoupled for separating the functions of network providers and service providers. The network providers can then focus on efficient operations and maintenance of networks so as to ensure the maximum uptime and optimal utilization of available capacities while the service providers can concentrate on services provided to the subscribers.



5. The pre-consultation paper aims to identify various issues relating to sharing of infrastructure and separation of network & service provider functions so as to reduce cost of distribution of services through various TV distribution platforms. Comments of various stakeholders, organizations, associations, experts, individuals etc. are solicited so that all likely issues can be identified for consultation.

6. Written comments on the paper are invited from the stakeholders by 23rd June, 2016. The comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form to Mr. Sunil Kumar Singhal, Advisor (B&CS) on the e-mail address sksinghal@trai.gov.in or gs.kesarwani@trai.gov.in . For any clarification/information, Mr. Sunil Kumar Singhal, Advisor (B&CS) may be contacted at Tel. No.: +91-11-23221509, Fax: +91-11-23220442. All comments received will be posted on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.


Sudhir Gupta
Secretary TRAI.